Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.(Previously Presented) A protective pad apparatus comprising:

a shell assembly; and

a cushioning pad fastened to the shell assembly, the cushioning pad comprising a laminate including at least one impact absorbing layer comprising a foam material which allows air to flow therethrough, an outer fabric layer that reflects heat and an inner fabric layer that allows air to flow therethrough, wherein the outer fabric layer faces toward the shell assembly and comprises a light color.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the outer fabric layer allows air to flow therethrough.

4. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the outer fabric layer functions as a radiant heat barrier.

5. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the outer fabric layer comprises an aluminum polyester.

6-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A protective pad apparatus comprising:

a shell assembly; and

a cushioning pad fastened to the shell assembly, the cushioning pad comprising an impact absorbing laminate including at least one substrate of reticulated foam allowing air to flow therethrough and at least one substrate of foam beads allowing air to flow therethrough.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the at least one substrate of reticulated foam has a black color.

13. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the at least one substrate of foam beads are fused together only where the beads contact one another.

14. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the laminate further comprises an outer fabric layer that reflects heat.

15.(Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the laminate further comprises an inner fabric layer, the inner fabric layer allowing air to flow therethrough.

16. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the laminate further comprises an inner fabric layer, the inner fabric layer allowing air to flow therethrough.

17. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the outer fabric layer allows air to flow therethrough.

18. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the outer fabric layer faces toward the shell assembly and comprises a light color.

19. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the laminate further comprises an inner fabric layer, the inner fabric layer allowing air to flow therethrough.

20. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the inner fabric layer faces away from the shell assembly and comprises a dark color.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the laminate further

comprises a radiant hear barrier layer.

23. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the radiant heat barrier layer comprises an aluminized polyester.

24-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the laminate further comprises at least one substrate of visco-elastic polymer.

29. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the at least one substrate of visco-elastic polymer includes at least one air ventilation aperture.

30. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the laminate further comprises an outer fabric layer that reflects heat.

31. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the laminate further comprises an inner fabric layer, the inner fabric layer allowing air to flow therethrough.

32. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 28, wherein the laminate further comprises an inner fabric layer, the inner fabric layer allowing air to flow therethrough.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) A protective pad apparatus comprising:

a shell assembly; and

a cushioning pad fastened to the shell assembly, the cushioning pad comprising a laminate including at least three impact absorbing layers, at least one of the at least three impact absorbing layers allowing air to flow therethrough and at least one of the at least three impact absorbing layers comprising at least one substrate of visco-elastic polymer.

35. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the at least one substrate of visco-elastic polymer includes at least one air ventilation aperture.

36. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the laminate further comprises a radiant hear barrier layer.

37. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the radiant heat barrier layer comprises an aluminized polyester.

38. (Currently Amended) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the laminate further comprises an outer fabric layer allows air to flow therethrough.

39. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the outer fabric layer faces toward the shell assembly and comprises a light color.

40. (Currently Amended) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 34, wherein the laminate further comprises an inner fabric layer, the inner fabric layer allowing air to flow therethrough.

41. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the inner fabric layer faces away from the shell assembly and comprises a dark color.

42. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 34, further comprising at least a second cushioning pad detachably fastened to an inner surface of the cushioning pad, the at least second cushioning pad comprising a laminate having at least one impact absorbing layer which allows air to flow therethrough.

43. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 42, wherein the laminate of the at least second cushioning pad further comprises outer and inner fabric layers.

44. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the outer and inner

fabric layers of the laminate of the at least second cushioning pad each allow air to flow therethrough.

45. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the outer fabric layer of the laminate of the at least second cushioning pad faces toward the inner surface of the cushioning pad and comprises a light color and the inner fabric layer of the laminate of the at least second cushioning pad faces away from the inner surface of the cushioning pad and comprises a dark color.

46. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cushioning pad comprises one of a plurality of discrete cushioning pads forming a cushioning pad assembly.

47. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the cushioning pad comprises one of a plurality of discrete cushioning pads forming a cushioning pad assembly.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the shell assembly comprises a plurality of discrete protector panels.

50. (Original)The protective pad apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the shell assembly comprises a plurality of discrete protector panels.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cushioning pad is fastened to the shell assembly with at least one snap fastener.

53. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the cushioning pad is fastened to the shell assembly with at least one snap fastener.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein shell assembly includes first and second halves.

56. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 55, wherein the first and second halves are connected by a first protector plate.

57. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 56, wherein the first protector plate allows the first and second halves of the shell assembly to move relative to one another.

58. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 56, wherein the first and second halves are further connected by a second protector plate.

59. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 58, wherein the protector plates allow the first and second halves of the shell assembly to move relative to one another.

60. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 55, wherein the first and second halves of the shell assembly are connected to one another in a manner which allows the halves to move relative to one another.

61. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 49, wherein shell assembly includes first and second halves.

62. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 61, wherein the first and second halves are connected by a first protector plate.

63. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the first protector plate allows the first and second halves of the shell assembly to move relative to one another.

64. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 62, wherein the first and second

halves are further connected by a second protector plate.

65. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 64, wherein the protector plates allow the first and second halves of the shell assembly to move relative to one another.

66. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 61, wherein the first and second halves of the shell assembly are connected to one another in a manner which allows the halves to move relative to one another.

67. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a belt strap system for securing the apparatus to a user, the belt strap system comprising at least one cushioning pad comprising a laminate having at least one impact absorbing layer which allows air to flow therethrough.

68. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the shell assembly includes a plurality of raised embossments.

69. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 49, wherein at least one of the protector panels includes at least one raised embossment.

70. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the protector panels comprise at least one chest protector panel that includes at least one raised embossment.

71. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the protector panels comprise at least one back protector panel that includes at least one raised embossment.

72. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the protector panels comprise at least one inner shoulder protector panel that includes at least one raised embossment.

73. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the shell assembly comprises a pearlized white metallic color.

74. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the shell assembly comprises a plurality of ventilation holes.

75. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at least one spring element for strengthening an inner shoulder portion of the shell assembly.

76. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 75, wherein the at least one spring element is fastened to the shell assembly with fasteners that allow the at least one spring element to swing laterally.

77. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 75, wherein the at least one spring element includes an impact absorbing layer.

78. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 49, further comprising at least one spring element for strengthening an inner shoulder portion of the shell assembly.

79. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 78, wherein the at least one spring element is fastened to the shell assembly with fasteners that allow the at least one spring element to swing laterally.

80. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 78, wherein the at least one spring element includes an impact absorbing layer.

81. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the shell assembly includes a lower shoulder panel fastened to an inner shoulder area by two straps that cross one another.

82. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the protector panels comprise a lower shoulder protector panel and an inner shoulder protector panel, the lower shoulder protector panel fastened to the inner shoulder protector panel by two straps that cross

one another.

83. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 49, wherein at least one of the protector panels comprises a plurality of ventilation holes.

84. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 49, wherein each of the protector panels has at least one of a predetermined size and a predetermined shape and wherein each of the protector panels can be individually replaced with a protector panel having one of at least a different predetermined size and a different predetermined shape.

85. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 49, wherein the cushioning pad comprises one of a plurality of discrete cushioning pads forming a cushioning pad assembly.

86. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 85, wherein each of the protector panels having at least one of a predetermined size and a predetermined shape and each of the protector panels being individually replaceable with a protector panel having at least one of a different predetermined size and a different predetermined shape.

87. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 86, wherein each of the cushioning pads having a predetermined size and a predetermined shape and each of the cushioning pads being individually replaceable with a cushioning pad having at least one of a different predetermined size and a different predetermined shape.

88. (Original) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 85, wherein each of the cushioning pads having a predetermined size and a predetermined shape and each of the cushioning pads being individually replaceable with a cushioning pad having at least one of a different predetermined size and a different predetermined shape.

89. (Previously Presented) The protective pad apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cushioning pad comprises one of a plurality of discrete cushioning pads forming a cushioning pad assembly, each of the cushioning pads having a predetermined size and a predetermined

shape and each of the cushioning pads being individually replaceable with a cushioning pad having at least one of a different predetermined size and a different predetermined shape.

90-160.(Canceled)

161. (Currently Amended) The protective shoulder pad apparatus according to claim ~~160~~ 174, wherein the laminate further comprises a radiant hear barrier layer.

162. (Previously Presented) The protective shoulder pad apparatus according to claim 161, wherein the radiant heat barrier layer comprises an aluminized polyester.

163. (Currently Amended) The protective shoulder pad apparatus according to claim ~~160~~ 174, wherein the laminate further comprises an impact absorbing layer comprising at least one substrate of visco-elastic polymer.

164. (Previously Presented) The protective shoulder pad apparatus according to claim 163, wherein the at least one substrate of visco-elastic polymer includes at least one air ventilation aperture.

165. (Currently Amended) The protective shoulder pad apparatus according to claim ~~160~~ 174, wherein the shell assembly includes a plurality of raised embossments.

166. (Currently Amended) The protective shoulder pad apparatus according to claim ~~160~~ 174, wherein the shell assembly comprises a plurality of protector panels.

167-171. (Canceled)

172. (Currently Amended) The protective shoulder pad apparatus according to claim ~~160~~ 174, wherein the shell assembly comprises a plurality of ventilation holes.

173. (Currently Amended) The protective shoulder pad apparatus according to claim ~~160~~ 174,

further comprising at least one spring element for strengthening an inner shoulder portion of the shell assembly.

174.(New) A protective shoulder pad apparatus comprising:

a white-colored shell assembly that reflects heat, the shell assembly comprising:

first and second halves;

front and rear protector plates connecting the first and second halves, the front and rear protector plates allowing the first and second halves of the shell assembly to move relative to one another;

and

a cushioning pad fastened to the shell assembly, the cushioning pad comprising:

at least one foam layer which allows air to flow therethrough;

a light-colored outer fabric layer which reflects heat and faces toward the shell assembly; and

a dark-colored inner fabric layer which allows air to flow therethrough, the inner fabric layer facing away from the shell assembly.